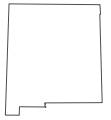


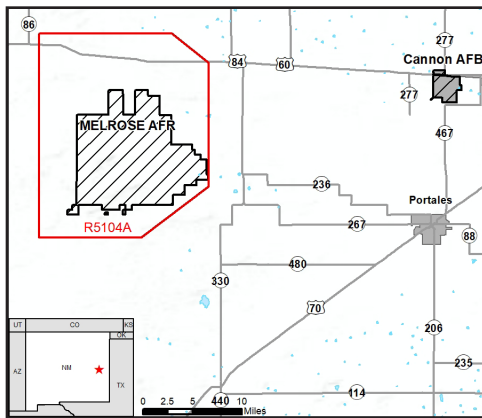


U.S. AIR FORCE :

MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE : NEW MEXICO



Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR) provides more than 4,500 training hours for Special Operations Forces each year. These hours consist of strike, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, mobility, battlefield support, special tactics, and ground force mission training for Special Operations Forces. In addition, the integrated nature of this range allows for combined air and ground training operations in settings very similar to those found in current areas of conflict, yielding greater success on the battlefield.



Although MAFR is located in rural eastern New Mexico, the elevation of the surrounding topography is very appealing to wind energy developers. MAFR is a relatively small range, therefore construction of turbines in the area would create vertical hazards and light-pollution capable of rendering 50% of training activities impracticable. With the support of the

state, partner and REPI funding, this project will secure restrictive use easements to provide buffer protection at MAFR to mitigate the impacts of potential incompatible development.

The land surrounding MAFR is currently used compatibly as rangeland, farmland, and grasslands. The grassland environment also serves as habitat to the critically endangered lesser prairie chicken and other ground nesting species. By protecting this land from development, historical agricultural operations will be sustained, and rangelands and grasslands will be preserved, benefitting the local wildlife and the military mission.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands
- Maintains existing land use patterns
- Preserves habitat for endangered species
- Maintains local character

MILITARY

- Ensures that existing compatible areas remain compatible
- Ensures the ability to conduct operations and training activities



A conservation easement adjacent to Melrose Air Force Range consists of 30,493 acres (top). An AC-130W Stinger II fires its weapon over Melrose Air Force Range, N.M (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- The Conservation Fund
- The New Mexico Land Conservancy
- State of New Mexico
- Surrounding land owners

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **30,493**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Total funds expended: **\$1.7 Million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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